



JAMES A. NOYES, Director

# COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

## DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

*"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"*

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IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: **WM-5**

June 17, 2004

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
County of Los Angeles  
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
500 West Temple Street  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Supervisors:

**PASEO DEL RIO AT RIO HONDO AND SAN GABRIEL  
COASTAL BASIN SPREADING GROUNDS PHASE II  
MULTIUSE IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT  
AWARD OF CONSULTANT SERVICES AGREEMENT  
SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICT 1  
3 VOTES**

**IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT YOUR BOARD ACTING AS THE GOVERNING BODY  
OF THE LOS ANGELES COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL DISTRICT:**

Award and authorize the Chief Engineer of the Flood Control District, or his designee, to execute a consultant services agreement with Cornerstone Studios, Inc., to prepare design plans, specifications, and construction cost estimates for the Paseo Del Rio at Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds Phase II Multiuse Improvements Project for a not to exceed fee of \$300,000, including \$30,000 for unforeseen costs, to be funded by the Fiscal Year 2003-04 Flood Control District Fund and to establish the effective date following Board approval.

### **PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION**

The project is the second phase of multiphase improvements to the Rio Hondo and San Gabriel Coastal Basin Spreading Grounds. The spreading grounds are located along the eastern and western boundaries of the City of Pico Rivera. Phase II

improvements will allow access into the spreading grounds for passive recreational purposes and will include additional landscaping in the interior of the grounds, walking and biking trails, enhanced rest areas, interpretive signage along trails, and security lighting.

Perimeter improvements to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the spreading grounds, including landscaping, ornamental fencing, and facility monuments, were completed in August 2002 as Phase I of the project. These improvements did not allow for public access into the spreading grounds.

Proposition A funding from the Supervisorial District 1 Greening Institute was granted to the City of Pico Rivera for the construction of a bike path, a rest area, and landscaping within Rio Hondo Spreading Grounds. These improvements allowed public access to a portion of the spreading grounds for recreational use. The District was responsible for the design and construction of the project which was completed in January 2003.

The District, the City of Pico Rivera, Supervisorial District 1, and other stakeholders worked closely together during the development of the Phase II improvements. The project has strong support from the City of Pico Rivera and residents within the area, the California Resources Agency, and the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy.

Once constructed, the District and the City of Pico Rivera will cooperate in maintaining the project. We will enter into a cooperative agreement with the City of Pico Rivera that will define project and financial responsibilities related to the design, implementation, and maintenance. We will return to your Board for adoption of the cooperative agreement.

### **Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals**

Awarding this agreement will meet the County's Strategic Plan Goal of Fiscal Responsibility by allowing Public Works to supplement resources and manage its workload in a more efficient and responsible manner. This project, once constructed, will also meet the Strategic Plan Goal of Service Excellence by increasing recreational opportunities and environmental benefits and improving the quality of life for citizens of the County of Los Angeles.

### **FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING**

The agreement is for an aggregate not to exceed fee of up to \$300,000, including \$30,000 for unforeseen costs, which may arise during progress of the work. Additional work within this allowance will not be performed without prior written authorization from the Chief Engineer of the District or his designee.

There will be no impact to the County's General Fund. Funding is available in the Fiscal Year 2003-04 Flood Control District Fund.

### **FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS**

As required by your Board, language has been incorporated into the consultant services agreement stating that the consultant shall notify its employees, and shall require each subconsultant to notify its employees, about Board Policy 5.135, the Safely Surrendered Baby Law, and that they may be eligible for the Federal Earned Income Credit under the Federal income tax laws.

As requested by your Board on August 12, 1997, and as a threshold requirement for consideration for contract award, Cornerstone Studios, Inc., is willing to consider Greater Avenues for Independence Program/General Relief Opportunity for Work participants for future employment.

Cornerstone Studios, Inc., is in full compliance with Los Angeles County Code Chapter 2.200 (Child Support Compliance Program) and Chapter 2.203 (Contractor Employee Jury Service Program).

### **ENVIRONMENTAL DOCUMENTATION**

A finding of environmental impact is not required for the award of this agreement. Any project that may be proposed as a result of these services will undergo the appropriate environmental review, consistent with the guidelines of the California Environmental Quality Act.

### **CONTRACTING PROCESS**

On April 28, 2004, a Request for Proposals was issued to 30 firms. Eight firms responded to the request. An evaluation committee consisting of representatives from the City of Pico Rivera, the San Gabriel and Lower Los Angeles Rivers and Mountains Conservancy, and Public Works evaluated the proposals. The evaluation of the firms

was based on technical expertise, proposed work plan, experience, personnel qualifications, and understanding of the work requirements. These evaluations were completed without regard to race, creed, color, or gender. Based on the review and evaluation of these proposals, the committee selected Cornerstone Studios, Inc., as the best qualified firm. The negotiated fees have been reviewed by Public Works and are considered reasonable for the services provided.

Participation by Community Business Enterprises (CBE) in the project is encouraged through Public Works' CBE Outreach Program and the requirement that consultants demonstrate their good faith efforts to utilize CBEs. Cornerstone Studios, Inc., is aware of Public Works' CBE Outreach Program, and its proposed CBE participation is on file with Public Works.

Public Works has evaluated and determined that the Living Wage Program (County Code Chapter 2.201) does not apply to the recommended agreement, as this agreement is for non-Proposition A services.

As requested by your Board on February 3, 1998, and to further increase consultant awareness of contracting opportunities with Public Works, this contract was listed on the "Doing Business with the County" website.

#### **IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)**

The project will have no adverse impact on current services. The project is in the general interest of Public Works as it will provide public access to the spreading grounds, creating a multiuse facility consistent with Public Works' goals of watershed management. The project will also provide increased recreational opportunities and an improved quality of life for citizens of the County.

The Honorable Board of Supervisors  
June 17, 2004  
Page 5

**CONCLUSION**

Please return three approved copies of this letter to Public Works.

Respectfully submitted,

JAMES A. NOYES  
Director of Public Works

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cc: Chief Administrative Office  
County Counsel  
Department of Public Social Services (GAIN/GROW Program)